

CLAIMS

1. A videophone station for conversation between a first so-called local person (1) and at least one second so-called distant person via a telecommunication network (3), comprising means of oral telecommunication (4), characterized in that it comprises:
 - a digital processing unit (5) designed to receive at least one distant person image and data of conversation with said distant person,
 - a first screen (6) arranged facing said local person, designed to display at least one distant person image received by the digital processing unit (5),
 - 15 - means of capture of an image (7) of said local person, that are arranged in such a way as to minimize a first angle (α) between a picture taking axis of the means of capture and a viewing axis of the first screen,
 - 20 - a second screen (8) arranged at the foot of the first screen (6) on an inclined plane (9) which separates the first screen from said local person, designed to display all or some of the data received by the digital processing unit (5),
 - 25 - control means (10) arranged between the second screen (8) and said local person, and designed to drive the digital processing unit (5).
2. The videophone station as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the first (6) and the second screens (8) are flat screens.
3. The videophone station as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the image capture means (7) comprise a camera having its own network address and designed to send video frames over the telecommunication network (3).

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4. The videophone station as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the control means (10) comprise a mouse and/or a joystick (10'') and in that the digital processing unit (5) is designed 5 to steer a distant camera as a function of commands received from the mouse or from the joystick (10'').

5. The videophone station as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the digital 10 processing unit (5) is connected to a local area network (11) to which are connected other similar videophone stations.

6. The videophone station as claimed in one of 15 claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the digital processing unit (5) is connected to a telephone link (12) of ADSL or ISDN type.

7. The videophone station as claimed in one of the 20 preceding claims, characterized in that the first screen (6) is designed to also display information relating to an environment of conversation with at least one distant person.

25 8. The videophone station as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the control means (10) comprise a keyboard (10') and in that the digital processing unit (5) is designed to record data entered by the local person with the aid of the 30 keyboard (10').

9. The videophone station as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a first axis (13) perpendicular to the plane of the first screen 35 makes an angle of 30° with the local person's viewing axis and in that the second screen (8) is integrated into a work table (14) so that the inclined plane (9) which supports it makes an angle of 40° with the

horizontal.

10. The videophone station as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the camera (7) is arranged above 5 or below the first screen (6) in immediate proximity.

11. A videophone method for conversation between a first so-called local person (1) and at least one second so-called distant person via a telecommunication 10 network (11), characterized in that it comprises:

- a first permanent step (25) consisting in capturing an image of the local person and in displaying telecommunication information on a first screen (6) arranged facing said local 15 person,
- a second step (26) consisting in establishing a telephone link between the local person and the distant person selected by means of the telecommunication information,
- 20 - a third step (27) consisting in displaying on a second screen (8) arranged on an inclined plane (9) between the first screen (6) and the local person, data received by a digital processing unit (5),
- 25 - a fourth step (28) consisting in displaying on the first screen (6) an interface for driving a camera situated facing the distant person,
- a fifth step (29) consisting in displaying on the first screen (6), an image of the distant person 30 captured by said camera.